

of Homeland Security, and the Assistant Secretary for Information Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, each shall be considered a "Senior Official of the Intelligence Community" for purposes of Executive Order 12333, and all other relevant authorities, and shall:

(a) recognize and give effect to all current clearances for access to classified information held by those who become employees of the Department of Homeland Security by operation of law pursuant to the Homeland Security Act of 2002 or by Presidential appointment;

(b) recognize and give effect to all current clearances for access to classified information held by those in the private sector with whom employees of the Department of Homeland Security may seek to interact in the discharge of their homeland security-related responsibilities;

(c) make all clearance and access determinations pursuant to Executive Order 12968 of August 2, 1995, or any successor Executive Order, as to employees of, and applicants for employment in, the Department of Homeland Security who do not then hold a current clearance for access to classified information; and

(d) ensure all clearance and access determinations for those in the private sector with whom employees of the Department of Homeland Security may seek to interact in the discharge of their homeland security-related responsibilities are made in accordance with Executive Order 12829 of January 6, 1993.

**Sec. 20.** Pursuant to the provisions of section 1.4 of Executive Order 12958 of April 17, 1995 ("Classified National Security Information"), I hereby authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to classify information originally as "Top Secret." Any delegation of this authority shall be in accordance with section 1.4 of that order or any successor Executive Orders.

**Sec. 21.** This order shall become effective on January 24, 2003.

**Sec. 22.** This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, against the United States, its departments, agencies, or

other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
January 23, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 27, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 24, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 28.

### **Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Tom Ridge as Secretary of Homeland Security**

*January 24, 2003*

**The President.** Good afternoon. Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the White House, and welcome to this historic moment. As of today, the law creating the United States Department of Homeland Security comes into effect. And now this Department has its first Secretary, Thomas Joseph Ridge.

Homeland Security becomes the 15th executive department of my Cabinet. It begins a vital mission in the defense of our country. We've learned that vast oceans no longer protect us from the dangers of a new era. This Government has a responsibility to confront the threat of terror wherever it is found.

And that is why we're taking the battle to America's enemies, disrupting their networks; we're destroying their camps. We've got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run.

And at home, we are taking every measure to protect the American people against a serious and ongoing threat. The Department of Homeland Security will lead a comprehensive and unified effort to defend this Nation. The Department will analyze threats, guard our borders and airports, safeguard critical infrastructure, and coordinate the response of our Nation to future emergencies.

Under the leadership of Tom Ridge, more than 170,000 dedicated Americans, dedicated professionals, will have the overriding mission of protecting their fellow Americans.

In October of 2001, when I established the office—the White House Office of Homeland Security, I knew immediately that Tom was the right man for the assignment. He's a decisive, clear-thinking executive who knows how to solve problems. He's a person of integrity and a person of good judgment. At the White House, he has done an outstanding job, and he's earned the gratitude of the American people.

This week he earned an unanimous vote of confirmation. And I want to thank the United States Senate for its swift action. This new Department will face many challenges in the year to come. The American people can be certain that the mission of homeland security will be carried out with focus and resolve, with the resources the task requires. And the American people can know as well that the Department is under the command of a superb leader who has my confidence.

Congratulations, Tom, and thank you for serving our country.

**Secretary Ridge.** Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### January 18

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### January 19

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

### January 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He and Mrs. Bush then trav-

eled to Landover, MD, where they participated in a roundtable discussion with congregation members and community leaders at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden. Later, they returned to Washington, DC.

### January 21

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President dropped by a birthday luncheon for opera singer Plácido Domingo hosted by Mrs. Bush in the East Room at the White House.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti to discuss bilateral issues and cooperation against terrorism.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Schwartz to be Member at Large and Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lawrence Mohr, Jr., and Sharon Falkenheimer to be members of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled: William Mea; Boyd Kevin Rutherford; John Surina; Joanne M. Wilson; Rear Adm. Justin D. McCarthy, USN; Andrew D. Houghton; and James Omvig.

### January 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to St. Louis, MO, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on the national economy at the JS Logistics company.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced the appointment of Gregory L. Schulte as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Paul Woodley, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.